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Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-second session

Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia

Letter dated 3 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-second session of the Assembly of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia".

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have attached an explanatory memorandum in support of the above request (annex I).

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annexes, including the letter from Marat Tazhin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Byrganym **Aitimova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

1. The initiative for the convocation of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia was announced by the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly (1992). The main idea of the initiative is to create an effective structure for dialogue on security problems in Asia. Three basic aspects of the process's activity are military-political measurement of security, economic cooperation, and interaction in humanitarian and human rights fields.

2. The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a structure uniting the countries of the Asian continent which sets before them the task of strengthening mutual cooperation between Asian States with a view to stabilizing and safeguarding the region. CICA plays a helpful role in advancing fruitful interaction and exchange, and in promoting conditions for stable economic growth. CICA is designed to promote peaceful settlement of disputes in the Asian continent, strengthen regional and global cooperation in combating terrorism, and promote tolerance and mutual understanding.

3. The first Summit of CICA was convened in 2002 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Since then, the CICA process has gained momentum, with the elaboration of key principles and with various multilateral and bilateral initiatives in the security, economic, environmental and cultural spheres. At the Summit the Almaty Act and the CICA Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations were signed.

4. The participants in the Summit paid special attention to the fact that a new political process was being created, aimed at opening new possibilities for multilateral dialogue and equal interaction among the Asian countries in order to strengthen security and stability, creating an atmosphere of trust and cooperation. The leaders of the Asian countries elaborated new principles of security in Asia, based on trust, respect and cooperation. The Almaty Act and the CICA Declaration reflect these principles.

5. Adoption of the catalogue of CICA confidence-building measures, the CICA rules of procedure and the Declaration was a major result of the 2nd meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CICA member States, held in October 2004. This is the first time in the history of the Asian continent that such a comprehensive document, providing multilateral cooperation on a broad spectrum of issues of stability and security, has appeared.

6. The second CICA Summit, held on 17 June 2006 in Almaty, adopted the Declaration of the second CICA Summit and signed the statute of the CICA secretariat.

7. The States members of CICA are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Mongolia, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Palestine, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan (18). The observer States are Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Ukraine, United States of America, Viet Nam (6) and the observer organizations are the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the League of Arab States (3).

8. The next steps in CICA activities will be aimed at continuing joint efforts to implement the confidence-building measures mentioned in the CICA catalogue, as well as elaborating a common approach to the new threats and challenges to security in Asia.

9. We believe that, in order to achieve a more effective, optimal level of cooperation and interaction between CICA and the United Nations, their mutual relations should in future be founded on a regular and well-organized basis. The granting of observer status for CICA in the General Assembly would serve this objective. Such an act would make it possible to strengthen in a concrete way coordination between CICA and the United Nations and expand their mutual capacities for promoting efforts to ensure peace, security and cooperation on a regional and global scale.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Noting the aspiration of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia to enhance its cooperation with the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to invite the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

Annex III

Letter dated 4 September 2007 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan to the Secretary-General

The secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA) started functioning in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan, in June 2006 by the decision of the second CICA Summit. This event marked the beginning of the new stage of the activities of CICA as a fully fledged international forum.

I would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to the leadership of the United Nations that attended the ceremony of signing of the statute of the CICA secretariat.

The main objective and thrust of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia is enhancing cooperation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. Such principles as mutual trust, mutually beneficial cooperation, equality, harmony, respect for cultural diversity and aspiration to joint development have been taken as the basis for CICA activities. The goals that are pursued by CICA serve not only the common interests of its member States, but also correspond with modern global tendencies. In order to achieve the above objectives the member States are taking necessary steps to develop CICA as a forum for dialogue, consultation and adoption of decisions and measures on the basis of consensus on security issues in Asia.

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia strictly abides by the goals and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and stands for maintaining the prestige of the United Nations and its irreplaceable role in international affairs. The Conference is ready for various forms of dialogue, exchanges of opinion and cooperation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies on the issues of mutual interest as well as for joint work in promoting peace, security and development all over the world.

By establishing CICA, the Heads of State and Government of the member States tasked CICA to deal with issues of common interest in economic, environmental, human and political-military dimensions as well as to tackle the new challenges and threats such as terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking and money-laundering. One of the most important documents, entitled "Cooperative approach for the implementation of the CICA confidence-building measures", which was approved by the Senior Officials Committee at the deputy ministerial level on 14 March 2007 in Bangkok, listing the areas of interest of the CICA member States, is attached for your kind consideration (see enclosure).

In the light of the foregoing, I would like to inform you that, in a unanimous decision taken on 5 March 2007, 18 member States (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Mongolia, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Palestine, Republic of Korea, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey and Uzbekistan) agreed to apply to the United Nations for the inclusion of CICA in the list of non-Member States entities and organizations having a standing invitation to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly. In this regard, Kazakhstan, as a Chairman of CICA, would like to request your kind support and

assistance in resuming the internal procedure within the United Nations to that effect.

I am confident that having received observer status in the General Assembly, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia will take a more active part in international affairs, will widen its cooperation with the United Nations, non-CICA member countries, international and regional organizations and forums and make a contribution to maintaining regional and global peace and security and facilitating the growth of the region's welfare. CICA will be working diligently in this direction.

(*Signed*) Marat **Tazhin**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Chairman of the CICA Ministerial Meetings

Enclosure

Cooperative approach for the implementation of the CICA confidence-building measures

Introduction

The implementation of the CICA confidence-building measures, as is emphasized in the catalogue, has a great importance for Asia and it will have a positive impact in creating an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship in the region. There is a vast potential and, in order to use it for the benefit of the member States, practical steps and joint actions are required in areas such as trade, the economy, the environment, disaster relief, transportation, energy, and cultural exchange, dialogue among civilizations, new challenges and threats.

A wide and varied range of measures and tasks set out in the catalogue require joint efforts in this process. Both bilateral and multilateral steps based on mutual understanding and consensus could enhance the elaboration of a clear and concrete mechanism for the catalogue's implementation in the framework of the Special Working Group established by the Senior Officials Committee on 5 August 2005.

Negotiations on the catalogue and on the establishment of the Special Working Group have shown a wide range of ideas and proposals regarding the mechanism of implementation.

Therefore it will be appropriate to base our work on a step-by-step approach and to proceed gradually on a voluntary basis. Indeed, this activity will be based on the CICA documents and the principle of consensus. Thus, it is necessary to follow strictly the provisions of the preamble and article 1 of the catalogue, which define the purposes and functions of the CICA confidence-building measures.

In order to facilitate the further work of the Group, the CICA member States considered the confidence-building measures under the following headings:

1. Economic.
2. Environmental.
3. Human.
4. New challenges and threats.

Any member State or a group of member States may, on voluntary basis, exchange information within the context of confidence-building measures agreed upon by them and submit this information to the CICA secretariat for further dissemination.

Priority areas of cooperation

Economic area

1. Cooperation to promote various modes of transport linkages.
2. Cooperation for the development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors.

3. Taking necessary steps to ensure energy security cooperation in the CICA region, including development of and enhancing efficiency and safety of the routes and security of supply of energy.

4. Widening of cooperation in the sphere of tourism, by exchanging information in this field and encouraging contacts between tourism organizations of the member States.

5. Visa facilitation including expeditious business visas in order to enhance trade and investment relations among the member States.

6. Widening of cooperation among financial sectors.

7. Promoting business opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises.

8. Expanding investment opportunities and cooperation.

9. Encouraging cooperation in the field of communications and information technology.

10. Establishing a common database on trade and other areas of economic interest.

Environmental area

1. Sharing information on best practices concerning national policies on environmental protection.

2. Sharing of information on best practices concerning sustainable development.

3. Developing guidelines for cooperation in the fields of disaster management systems, national monitoring of environmental and disaster situations, development of early warning systems, holding joint training and search-rescue operations.

4. Development and application of common programmes on environment protection without prejudice to the member States' rights and obligations under relevant bilateral and multilateral instruments.

5. Exchange of information on natural and industrial disasters on their territories which in their view may affect their neighbours.

Human dimension

1. Promotion of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, while taking into consideration the views and recommendations in the report of the United Nations High-level Group on the Alliance of Civilizations of 13 November 2006.

2. Encouragement of national information agencies and mass media for the promotion of confidence-building measures in all agreed dimensions of CICA.

3. Promoting cultural exchange and cooperation through cultural activities and promotion of awareness and dissemination of information on peoples

and different cultures in the CICA area with a view to encouraging tolerance and understanding.

4. Promoting people-to-people contacts including exchanges among scientific, educational and sports institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations; and developing projects concerning, inter alia, scientific cooperation, exchange of students and joint events.

5. Organization of joint archaeological expeditions for unearthing the common cultural heritage.

6. Promotion of respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

Area of new challenges and threats

1. Exchange of information on measures among member States on fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as prevention of the activities of separatist and extremist organizations and organized crime groups linked closely to them.

2. Exchanging of information on the measures the member States have taken to curb illicit drug trafficking, human smuggling and trafficking, illegal migration, money-laundering, transboundary organized crime, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including man-portable air defence systems as well as smuggling of explosives and poisonous materials.

3. Exchanging information, assisting in establishing and strengthening cooperation and contacts between relevant authorities of the member States in the area of fighting economic crime and cybercrime.

4. Promoting law enforcement cooperation and exchange of information on legal, judicial and criminal matters.

5. Sharing of experience and strengthening cooperation to cope with the emerging infectious diseases and epidemics.

Modalities for implementation of confidence-building measures in aforementioned areas

CICA member States may choose to implement the confidence-building measures from the aforementioned areas bilaterally or multilaterally on a voluntary basis in the following manner:

(a) In the first modality, the member States may wish to express their interest in implementation of a specific confidence-building measure. Thereafter, the CICA Chairman may consult those member States on the designation of a coordinating country or countries and request the designated country or countries to prepare a draft concept paper. That paper may be distributed through the secretariat among the member States prior to any specialized meeting and be considered by the Special Working Group and, if agreed, be submitted to the Senior Officials Committee for further approval.

(b) In the second modality:

- CICA member States may wish to exchange views on a particular confidence-building measure via the CICA Chairman and secretariat as a first step.
- The CICA Chairman and secretariat compile the information provided by the member States and establish a database.
- The member States may periodically nominate experts and academicians for specific CICA confidence-building measures.
- The CICA secretariat shall provide logistical support for organizing specialized meetings in the member or observer States with the participation of experts and academicians to address the core of the issues and task eligible experts to produce a working paper.
- The working paper should be considered in the Special Working Group and later in the Senior Officials Committee for further elaboration and decision.

The cooperative approach is subject to review or amendment by the member States upon the approval of the Senior Officials Committee, should the need arise.

Bangkok, 14 March 2007

Annex to the cooperative approach for the implementation of the CICA confidence-building measures

List of the member States which proposed to act as coordinating or co-coordinating countries for implementing the specific confidence-building measures in areas such as economic, environmental, human and new challenges and threats

Member State	*Specific confidence-building measures*
Azerbaijan	Cooperation for the development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors
Iran	1. Drug control issues
	2. Issues of national disaster management
Kazakhstan	To be determined
Republic of Korea	1. IT cooperation
	2. Energy security cooperation
Russia	One of the confidence-building measures in the economic dimension
Tajikistan	Cooperation on tourism
Turkey	New challenges and threats